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A
DESCRIPTION
OF
ALNWICK CASTLE.

FOR THE USE OF VISITORS.



ALNWICK:
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ALNWICK CASTLE, FROM THE N. W.

DESCRIPTION OF ALNWICK CASTLE.

Lord Percy made a solemn feast
In Alnwick's princely hall ;
And there came lords, and there came knights,
His chiefs and barons all.

HERMIT OF WARKWORTH.

ALNWICK CASTLE is situated in the Parish of Alnwick, in the East Division of Coquetdale Ward, in the County of Northumberland. It is one of the principal seats of the great family of Percy, Dukes and Earls of Northumberland, and certainly one of the best specimens of a baronial residence in the kingdom. It stands on the south side of the river Aln, upon an elevation which presents its lofty towers

and embattled fronts in all the dignity and grandeur of a Gothic palace. In ancient times its situation rendered it an important fortress, and its history is interwoven with that of the kingdom at large.

The Castle stands in a spacious area, which at the time of its greatest strength totally surrounded it, defended by a complete circumvallation, with an inner and an outer moat. At present the front is open on the north-east, towards the Battery; and the wall having towers at proper intervals, shuts it in on the other quarters. To the south-east the gardens and pleasure grounds called Barneyside appear beautifully disposed; and to the south and west, the town of Alnwick is seen spreading on the back ground.

From the observations of Mr. Grose, it seems pretty evident that Alnwick Castle owes its origin to the Romans. It is believed to have been founded by them, although no part of the original structure is now remaining. But, some years ago, when part of the Castle Keep was taken down to be repaired, under the present walls were discovered the foundations of other buildings, which lay in a different direction from the present, and upon some of the stones appeared Roman mouldings.

The Keep of the Castle may have been founded at a later period, probably in the Saxon times. The zigzag fretwork round the arch that leads into the inner court is evidently of Saxon architecture; and yet this was probably not the most ancient entrance; for under the flag-tower, before that part was altered by

the first Duke of Northumberland, there was an appearance of a gateway that had been walled up, directly fronting the present outward gateway into the town.

In the third year of the reign of Edward II., 1309, the Castle and Barony of Alnwick came into the possession of the Percies, a family of great distinction in the County of York from the time of the conquest. Immediately on this acquisition, the Lord Henry de Percy began to repair the Castle; and he and his successors, afterwards Earls of Northumberland, perfected and completed both this citadel and its outworks.

The two great octagon towers which were superadded to the old Saxon gateway, and constitute the entrance into the inner ward, were erected about the year 1350, by the second Lord Percy of Alnwick.

The date of the erection of these two towers is ascertained very exactly by a series of escutcheons sculptured upon them, which sufficiently supply the place of an inscription. It is very remarkable, that although these towers have now stood since the middle of the fourteenth century, so excellent is the masonry, that they have neither received nor wanted repair.

The *escutcheons* are arranged in the following order :—

I. A *plain* shield with a bend : supposed to be the original arms of TYSON, the proprietor of this Castle in the time of the Saxons.

II. The shield of VESCY, Lord of Alnwick after the conquest, *Or, a cross sable*. These were the arms afterwards quartered by the house of Clifford, as heirs general of that of Vesci.

III. Of CLIFFORD. Idonea, daughter of Robert Lord Clifford, was wife of Henry, the second Lord Percy of Alnwick, who built these towers. In colours the arms would be *Chequered, or and azure, a fess gules.*

IV. Of PERCY, the proprietor and builder of the towers, viz. *Or, a lion rampant azure.* These were not the original arms of Percy, but the adopted arms of the Earl of Brabant.

V. Of BOLAM. William de Bolam, Earl of Northampton, was in 1350 made Lord Warden of the Marches, and so continued for two years after: viz. *Azure, a bend argent charged with three mullets sable, between two cottices and six lions rampant or.*

VI. Of PLANTAGENET. Mary, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, and grandson of Henry III., was wife of Henry, the third Lord Percy of Alnwick, son to the founder of these towers: viz. *Gules, three lions rampant or, charged with a label of five points.*

In the centre are the arms of the sovereign King Edward III., viz. France and England quarterly; France being then *Semiee de fleurs de lis.*

VII. Of WARREN. Eleanor, daughter of John, Earl of Warren and Surrey, was wife of Henry Lord Percy, the founder's grandfather: viz. *Chequered, or and azure.*

VIII. Of ARUNDEL. Eleanor, daughter of John, Earl of Arundel, was the founder's mother, and the wife of Henry Percy, the first Lord of Alnwick: viz. *Gules, a lion rampant or.*

IX. Of UMFREVILLE. Margaret Percy, one of the founder's daughters, was then married to Robert, son and heir of Gilbert de Umfreville, Earl of Angus: viz. *Azure, a cinque-foil or, between six crosets argent.*

X. Of PERCY again. Isabel Percy, another of the daughters, was then unmarried. She was afterwards wife of William de Aton.

XI. Of NEVILLE. Maud Percy, the founder's eldest daughter, was wife of John Lord Neville of Raby: viz. *Gules, a saltire argent.*

XII. Of FITZ-WALTER. Eleanor Percy, his second daughter, was married to John Lord Fitz-Walter: viz. *Or, a fess between two chevrons gules.*

It deserves remark, that the first Duke of Northumberland was by his grandmother, the daughter of Marmaduke Lord Langdale, lineally descended from the two ladies last mentioned, and through them from the ancient Lords de Percy.

The ruin of this Castle, from its ancient grandeur, may be dated from the time of the destructive orders of Oliver Cromwell's parliament. But by the death of Algernon, Duke of Somerset, in 1750, it devolved, together with all the estates of this great Barony, to the first Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. They rescued this ancient castle from the decay in which it mouldered, and restored it to more than its pristine splendour. His Grace repaired the surrounding towers, and added those that were wanting with a minute exactness. The citadel was a heap of ruins; but he retained much of the old walls and restored its original form, still observing the Gothic exterior

in every compartment, and uniting it with all the magnificence of the modern ; so that it may deservedly be considered one of the noblest and most superb models of a great baronial castle.

The Castle is a noble structure, and built originally in the Saxon style, although it has been added to and altered at various periods. On the battlements are numerous effigies, according to the taste of the Normans, in whose time it underwent a principal reparation. These effigies represent warriors in the act of defence, wielding such arms as were then used. Some of them are disposed with great propriety. The building is of freestone, in chiseled work. Its form is singular, being composed of a cluster of semicircular and angular bastions.

Alnwick Castle contains about five acres of ground within its outer walls, which are flanked with sixteen towers and turrets, that now afford a complete set of offices to the castle, and many of them retain their original names, as well as their ancient use and destination. These are,

I. The Great or Outward Gate of entrance, anciently called the Utter Ward : containing the porter's lodge and men-servants' sleeping apartments.

II. The Garner or Avener's Tower, appropriated as the apartments of the Master of the horse ; behind which are stables, coach-houses, riding house, and conveniences ; in all respects suitable to the magnitude and dignity of this great castle.

III. The Water Tower ; containing the cistern or reservoir that supplies the castle and offices with water. In this tower is the Clock, which was placed there by

the present Duke ; the Bell is about six feet in height, and weighs thirty-eight cwt. Adjoining to this is the laundry, &c.

IV. The Caterer's Tower, now used as the larder ; adjoining to which are the kitchens and other conveniences.

Behind the adjacent walls there is a range of buildings three stories in height, forming a complete set of offices and apartments for most of the principal officers and attendants in the castle. These buildings are seen to the best advantage from the White Swan Inn Garden or Yard.

V. The Middle Ward, which contains the Chapel.

VI. The Auditor's Tower, now disused.

VII. The Guard House.

VIII. The East Garret.

IX. The Record Tower ; of which the lower story contains the Evidence Room or repository of many of the Archives of the Barony. Over it is a circular apartment designed for a banqueting room, and executed with great taste and beauty. It is twenty-nine feet in diameter, and twenty-four feet six inches high. It is now appropriated for the valuable collection of Egyptian Antiquities formed by Lord Prudhoe.

X. The Ravine Tower, or Hotspur's Chair. Between this and the Round Tower there was formerly a large breach in the walls, which for time immemorial had been called, by the town's people, the *Bloody Gap*.

XI. The Constable's Tower ; which remains chiefly in its ancient state, as a specimen how the castle itself was once fitted up. In the upper apartment of this tower there are accoutrements for the Cavalry, arranged in

beautiful order, under the charge of an artillery-man. These arms were formerly used by the Regiment raised at the expense of the late Duke during the war, called the Percy Tenantry Volunteers, amounting to 1500 men, consisting of six troops of cavalry, seventeen companies of riflemen, and a company of artillery. In the same apartment there is a canoe, with the dress, darts, harpoon, &c. formerly belonging to an Esquimaux princess. This canoe was brought to England by the late Duke when he returned from the American war, as a present from its owner to his mother. It is 17 feet 8 inches in length, and its girt at the centre is 4 feet 4 inches: the paddle is 6 feet 8 inches in length. Besides specimens of Arms lately brought from China.

XII. The Postern Tower, or Sally Port. The upper apartment formerly contained old armour and arms, but now some Roman Antiquities found in the county. The lower story has a small furnace and elaboratory for chymical or other experiments.

Between this tower and the next is the Battery, mounted with several pieces of ordnance. The view from the Battery, on a summer's evening, is beautiful. The green freshness of the grassy park, studded with trees—the broad sheet of water—the Lion-bridge of three arches to the west, and the distant view of Brisley Tower—on the right or east the Denwick bridge, and in the horizon the ruins of Ratcheugh Crag, are altogether a lovely sight for the eye to dwell upon. The cows and flocks of the inhabitants grazing in the rich pastures, fed by the sanction of His Grace, rather than herds of deer, are not only more pleasing but more satisfactory, contributing as they

do to the welfare of the inhabitants, as well as to the beauty of the scene.

XIII. The Armourer's Tower ; in which was formerly deposited a quantity of different kinds of ancient armour.

XIV. The Falconer's Tower.

XV. The Abbot's Tower ; so called either from its situation nearest to Alnwick Abbey, or from its containing an apartment for the abbot of that monastery, whenever he repaired to the castle. It now contains a Museum of curiosities collected by Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland.

XVI. The West Garret.

The Castle properly consists of three courts or divisions, the entrance into which was defended with three strong massy gates, called the Utter Ward, the Middle Ward, and the Inner Ward. Each of these gates was in a high embattled tower, furnished with a portcullis, and the outward gate with a drawbridge also. They had each of them a porter's lodge, and a strong prison, besides other necessary apartments for the constable, bailiff, and subordinate officers ; and under each of the prisons was a deep and gloomy dungeon, into which prisoners were let down with cords.

The only remaining prison is situated on the right of the inner ward, and is entered by a narrow passage about sixteen feet in length. It is eleven feet four inches long and ten feet four inches wide. Beneath this prison, under ground, is the dungeon in all its original horrors. It is nine feet long, eight feet wide,

and eleven feet deep, and has no entrance but by a trap-door or iron grate, the Gothic emblem of lawless and arbitrary power.

The approach to the Castle retains much of the solemn grandeur of former times. The moat is drained, and the ceremony of letting down the drawbridge is discarded, but the walls which inclose the area still wear the ancient countenance of strength and defiance. It is entered from the town by a machicolated gate, defended by an upper tower, and, after passing a covered way, the interior gate opens to the area. This entrance is defended by all the devices used in ancient times,—iron-studded gates, portcullis, open galleries, and apertures in the arching for annoying assailants, with the figures of warriors in stone mounted on the battlements. Over the great gateway of the ancient barbican is the armorial escutcheon, a lion rampant. Above it is the motto of the Percy family—

Esprance m̄ comfortz.

Below it is the inscription and motto—

Esprance H. P. en Dieu.

The initials *H. P.* are probably those of Lord Henry Percy, who came into the possession of the Castle and Barony of Alnwick, in 1309, when he began to repair the castle and its outworks.

Nothing can be more striking than the effect at the first entrance within the walls from the town, when, through a dark gloomy gateway of considerable length and depth, the eye suddenly emerges into one of the

most splendid scenes that can be imagined, and is presented at once with the great body of the inner Castle, surrounded with the smooth lawn and formed of fair semicircular towers, finely swelling to the eye, and gaily adorned with pinnacles, figures, battlements, &c.

The impression is still further strengthened by the successive entrance into the second and third courts, through great massy towers, till the stranger is landed in the inner court, in the very centre of this great citadel. The ancient archway leading into the inner court is eighteen yards through; the entrance is defended by two pieces of cannon. The inner arch, of Saxon architecture, still retains its zigzag ornament. On the northern wall of the Inner Court are medallion portraits of the first Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. On the right of the Inner Court is a curious draw-well, with its antique machinery for supplying the Castle with water in case of a siege.

Opposite to the Saxon Arch is the great Door or chief entrance to the Castle. Immediately on entering, the visitor is struck with the beauty of the staircase. It is of a very singular yet pleasing form, expanding like a fan. At the bottom of the staircase is a piece of sculpture, by Lough, of Samson slaying his enemies. The cornice of the ceiling is enriched with a series of one hundred and twenty escutcheons, displaying the principal quarterings and intermarriages of the Percy family. The space occupied by this grand staircase is forty-six feet long, thirty-five feet four inches wide, and forty-three feet two inches high.

The apartments at the Castle are generally shown to visitors in the following order, and it is thought best, for their convenience, so to describe them.

The interior of the Castle is fitted up with consummate taste and judgment, in a magnificent style of Gothic decoration, but as conformable as possible to the general character of the exterior, so as to render this ancient and renowned fortress one of the noblest models of a great baronial residence.

The first room to the left of the grand staircase is the SALOON, which is a most beautiful apartment, designed in the gayest and most elegant style of Gothic architecture. It is forty-two feet eight inches long, thirty-seven feet two inches wide, and nineteen feet ten inches high. The walls are panelled resembling stone. The family paintings are chiefly to be found at Northumberland House, Sion House, and Petworth; but Alnwick Castle contains some fine portraits of the Percy family. In the Saloon are the following:—

THOMAS, SEVENTH EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, in the robes of a knight of the garter, with his right hand placed on a book lying on a table. This painting is placed in a compartment on the left hand of the entrance from the Saloon to the Drawing-room, and is a copy by Phillips. The Earl joined in the northern insurrection against Queen Elizabeth, and this enterprise ultimately proved fatal to him. He fell into the hands of the borderers, who betrayed him for a sum of money to Murray, the regent of Scotland, and was confined in Lochleven Castle, till he was given up to the English, and carried to York, where he was beheaded on the 22nd of August, 1572.

HENRY, EIGHTH EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, in a sitting posture, with his head resting on his hand. This painting is placed over the entrance, and is a copy from Vandyck, by Phillips. This Earl was a younger brother of the seventh Earl;

and being suspected of plotting to set Mary Queen of Scots at liberty, he was committed prisoner to the tower; and on the 21st of June, 1585, he was found dead in his bed, having three shots from a pistol lodged under his left breast, his chamber door being fastened on the inside.

HENRY, NINTH EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND; a fine painting representing the Earl in a contemplative sitting posture, in the Tower, his head leaning on his elbow, under which lies a paper, said to be the stipulation for his release on which he is deliberating. This painting is in a circular frame over the chimneypiece, and is a copy from Vandyck.

The Earl being suspected as an accomplice in the Gunpowder Plot, was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and a fine of £30,000, though he was convicted in the Star-chamber for misprisonment of treason only, without the least proof of his having had any knowledge of the plot. In 1614, he paid his fine, but did not gain his liberty till the 18th of July, 1621, having been confined fifteen years. He was a munificent patron of learning and learned men, and died at his seat, at Petworth, in 1632.

ALGERNON, TENTH EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND, Lord High Admiral of England; a full-length painting in the naval costume of the time of the commonwealth. In the back ground is a view of the sea with a ship on fire. The painting is placed on the left-hand of the fire-place, and is a copy from Vandyck, taken from the original at Petworth. The Earl died on the 13th of October, 1668, and was interred at Petworth.

JOSCELINE, ELEVENTH EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND; a full-length painting in the Court dress of his time. It is on the right of the fire-place, and is a copy from Sir Peter Lely, from the original at Petworth. The Earl died at Turin, on the 21st of May, 1670, and was buried at Petworth.

ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF SOMERSET, AND BARONESS PERCY in her own right, only child of Josceline, Earl of Northumberland. This painting is placed above the entrance from the Saloon to the Drawing-room. It is also a copy from Sir Peter Lely. Her Grace died in 1722.

CHARLES, DUKE OF SOMERSET; a full-length painting by Sir Peter Lely, and placed to the right of the door leading from the Saloon to the Drawing-room.

HUGH, SECOND DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND, BARON PERCY, &c.; a full-length portrait in military costume, by Sir

Thomas Lawrence. It is placed on the left-hand of the entrance door to the Saloon. His Grace, who was a field officer during the American war, and commanded at the battle of Lexington, died on the 10th of July, 1817, and was interred in Westminster Abbey.

HUGH, THE THIRD AND PRESENT DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND; a full-length portrait, in his robes of Knight of the Garter, painted by Phillips.

CHARLOTTE-FLORENTIA, THE PRESENT DUCHESS OF NORTHUMBERLAND; a cabinet portrait, in a gold frame, painted by Mrs. Robertson.

HIS GRACE, THE PRESENT DUKE; of the style and size of the portrait of Her Grace, and painted by Mrs. Robertson.

The DRAWING-ROOM, which adjoins the Saloon, consists of one large oval, with a semicircular projection, or bow window. It is forty-six feet seven inches long, thirty-five feet four inches wide, and twenty-two feet high. The walls are hung with crimson silk with a gold sprig, of the manufacture of the weavers of Spitalfields,—a portion of an order given by His Grace to them, during a period of distress in that trade.

The transition from hence is very properly to the DINING-ROOM; which was one of the first executed, and is of the purest Gothic, with niches and other ornaments, that render it a very noble model of a great baron's hall. In this room was an irregularity in the form, which has been managed with great skill and judgment, and made productive of beauty and convenience. This is a large bow window, not in the centre, but towards the upper end, which now affords a very agreeable recess when the family dine alone, or for a second table at public dinners. This room is fifty-three feet nine inches in length,

twenty feet ten inches wide, (exclusive of the circular recess, which is nine feet in diameter), and twenty-six feet nine inches high. The walls are of stone colour, with white mouldings and pendent spandrels. The roof is further ornamented with coats of arms. In this room, over the chimneypiece, is a full-length painting of Elizabeth, first Duchess of Northumberland, by Lindot, from the original of Sir Joshua Reynolds. On the right and left of Her Grace's portrait are the shields, in colours proper, of the six baronies of Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Payne, Bryan, and Latimer, to which Her Grace was lineal heiress, by the intermarriages of her ancestors with the several heirs of those baronies. Her Grace died December 5th, 1776, and was buried in the Percy Vault in Westminster Abbey.

From the Dining-room the stranger is ushered into a Gothic apartment over the gateway, called the BREAKFAST-ROOM. It is thirty-eight feet four inches long, nineteen feet ten inches wide, (exclusive of the recesses, which are four feet seven inches), and sixteen feet one inch high. At the further end of this room are two small apartments, situated in the two octagon towers before described. The one on the right is not shown; but that on the left is called the DUCHESS'S BOUDOIR. It contains paintings of—

HUGH, the present Duke of Northumberland, when Earl Percy, in the uniform of the Percy Tenantry; a half-length portrait, a very excellent likeness, by Phillips. There is also a small marble bust of His Grace, beautifully executed.

Above the fire-place is a painting of SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNNÉ, the present Baronet, and nephew of Her Grace.

The WIFE OF RUBENS, painted by Lady Caroline Stanhope.

Good's celebrated painting of a boy tickling a sleeping man with a straw. The mode in which the light is thrown upon this painting is the distinguishing character of this Artist.

There are also several miniature paintings, and other objects of attraction in this small room.

Returning through the Breakfast-room the visitor is conducted to the oval hanging stone staircase, from which is the entrance to

The LIBRARY.—A very fine room in the form of a parallelogram, being sixty-four feet long, twenty-three feet one inch wide, and sixteen feet one inch high. It is ornamented with stucco-work in a very rich Gothic style, and contains a good collection of rare and valuable works. The walls are stone colour. In the centre of the room are equestrian statues of Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington, in bronze. At the end of the Library is a door which leads to

The CHAPEL, which fills all the upper space of the middle ward. Here the highest display of Gothic ornaments in the greatest beauty has been exhibited; the several parts have been designed after the most perfect models of Gothic excellence, and the whole is superbly adorned throughout. The walls are divided into panels, with gilt, purple, and scarlet mouldings. Three clustered pilasters branch out palm-like from each side, and in each panel is an armorial shield in colours proper, painted under the authority of Arthur Collins, Esq., the author of the Peerage of England. Pedigrees of this ancient family are painted on the walls on each side. The great east window of the Chapel is in the style of one of the finest in York

Minster; the ceiling is borrowed from that of King's College, in Cambridge; and the mouldings and stucco-work are gilt and painted after the great church in Milan. The windows of painted glass, three in number, are for lightness and elegance equal to any thing that has yet been attempted, and worthy of the present more improved state of the arts. Exclusive of a beautiful circular recess for the family, the Chapel is fifty feet long, twenty-one feet four inches wide, and twenty-two feet high.

Under the great east window is an elegant Cenotaph of statuary marble, erected to the memory of Elizabeth, the first Duchess of Northumberland. In the centre of this is a bust of the Duchess in bass-relief, and on each side of the bust, also in bass-relief, a full-length figure. At one end of the Cenotaph are the arms of the Duchess, and at the other the arms of the Duke her husband. On the top are a lion and unicorn couchant, and between them, on a small tablet, is the following inscription:—

Sacred to the Memory of
Elizabeth Percy, Duchess of Northumberland,
Daughter of Algernon, Duke of Somerset,
Heiress of the Ancient Earls
of Northumberland,
who inherited their great
and good qualities
with every amiable
and benevolent virtue,
and died December 5th, 1776, aged 60,
universally beloved, revered, lamented.

Conjuge Optimæ H. Dux. Nor. Moerens posuit.

Returning from the Chapel through the Library, and passing by the oval staircase which fills a space twenty-two feet nine inches long, and fifteen feet three inches wide, a passage or gallery leads to two State Bed-chambers, each thirty feet long, most nobly furnished, with double dressing-rooms, closets, and other conveniences, all in the highest elegance. The walls are hung with Indian paper. The first to which the stranger is conducted is beautifully furnished; the cabinets originally belonged to Queen Charlotte. There is an old painting of the city of Venice above the door.

The next State Bed-room contains several paintings, viz:—

EDWARD SEYMOUR, Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector in the reign of Edward VI., taken from life by Holbein, and possessing the velvet softness and lustre of colouring, which distinguished that great painter.

GENERAL COUNT PLATOFF, in military costume.

The CHARGER, which General Platoff presented to His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. The painting is by Ward, and the scenery is a view of Ratcheugh Crag, from the East.

The celebrated ARABIAN HORSE, belonging to His Grace, the Duke of Northumberland; painted by Ward. The background represents buildings of Eastern Architecture.

Two oblong Paintings; one representing King Henry V., who is kneeling before a desk, on which is a missal and the sceptre and globe. Behind him, on their knees, are his three brothers, Thomas, Duke of Clarence; John, Duke of Bedford; and Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester; all dressed in dark purple robes, like the king's, and wearing golden coronets. The other painting represents Queen Catherine of Valois, kneeling before a desk, in the same manner as the other, except that there is no sceptre on her desk; behind the Queen are four ladies dressed like her and

with coronets. Walpole says, "the first two after the queen are probably the king's sisters, Blanche, Duchess of Bavaria, and Philippa, Queen of Denmark; but who the other two are is more difficult to decide." Another supposition is that these five portraits are of Queen Catherine at different periods of her life. These two paintings are copies of two of the portions of the altar-piece formerly at Sheen, supposed to be executed in the reign of Henry VII.—(Walpole's Works, iii. 35.)

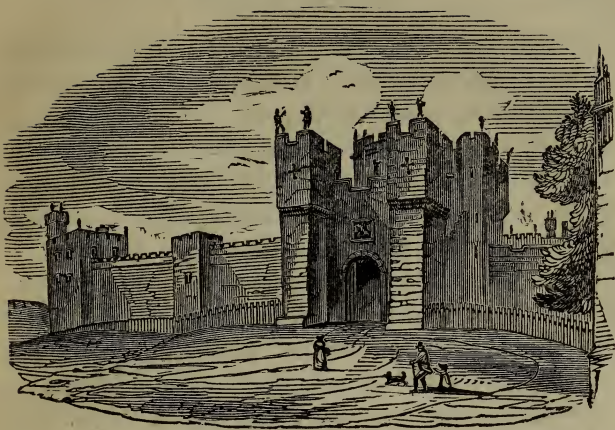
From the state bed-chambers the passage opens to the grand stair-case, and completes a tour not easily to be paralleled.

How different is the Castle now fitted up compared with the days of Henry Algernon Percy, the fifth Earl of Northumberland, as may be gleaned from his celebrated Household Book, begun A. D. 1512. The sum of £1000 was assigned for keeping my Lord's House, consisting of 166 persons. Whenever the Earl removed from one castle to another, from Alnwick to Warkworth, or from Warkworth to Wresil, or Leckenfield in Yorkshire, 17 carriages were allowed for removing the "stuff" of the Wardrobe, Vestry, Children, Servants, Kitchen, Attorney, two Auditors, Carvers, Servers, Gentlemen Waiters, Ushers, Dean, Sub-Dean, Priests, Gentlemen and Children of my Lord's Chapel, Clerk of the Foreign Expences, Clerk of the Works, Clerk of the Brevements, Clerk Avenor, Chaplains, Officers at Arms, Yeomen of the Chamber, Yeomen Waiters and Porter, the Joiner, Smith, Painter, Minstrels, Huntsmen, and divers other persons, all enumerated with great exactness. The head officers have special charges as to my Lord's stuff and his chariot, and that all this retinue be gone "at the leist a fort net afoir my Lords removal." The Beds, Hangings, and Furniture, were thus conveyed; the Tapestry or Arras was hung upon tenter hooks, from which it was easily taken down upon every removal. Glass was not commonly used, but lattice work fitted with thin panels of Horn; and "Yt were good the whole

leights of evrie window at the departure of His Lordshippe from lying at any of his said castels and houses and during the time of his Lordship's absence, or others lying in them, were taken down and laid up safely." Instead of Carpets, the floors were strewed with clean Rushes;—so that, when my Lord was absent, the rooms were open to the winds of heaven and to the birds of the air; previous to his arrival, the rooms were cleaned—the windows placed—the arras pinned up—the rushes strewed, and the fires kindled; and thus were the Nobles in the land housed in those days. And as to the mode of living, the family rose at 6—dined at 10—supped at 4—and the gates shut at 9, and no further ingress or regress permitted. It would occupy too much space to give many particulars which are spread over this curious volume of 500 pages, but one extract more will suffice. My Lord and Lady have set on the table for breakfast at 7 in the morning a loaf of bread in trenchers, 2 manchetts, a quart of Beer, as much wine, two pieces of salt fish, six baconed herrings, four white ones, and a dish of sprats; and on *flesh days* half a chyne of mutton or a chyne of boiled beef. Wooden trenchers were in common use, and pewter as an ornamental addition on great holidays.

This Earl was a Nobleman of great magnificence and taste—a lover of literature, as his MSS. in the British Museum, prove—and a patron of arts and genius. Hall, in his Chronicle, describes the splendid manner in which he conducted the Princess Margaret to Scotland on her marriage with James IV. in 1503. He was made a Knight of the Garter very early in life, and died in 1527.





HISTORY OF ALNWICK CASTLE.

Prince Henry to Thomas Percy, Earl of Worcester.

Tell your nephew,
The Prince of Wales doth join with all the world
In praise of Henry Percy.
I do not think, a braver gentleman,
More active-valiant, or more valiant-young,
More daring, or more bold, is now alive,
To grace this latter age with noble deeds.

First part of Henry IV., Act V., Sc. I.

No authentic account of this Castle can be written, however succinctly, without embracing at the same time a history of the noble family of Percy.

The Castle is supposed to be of Roman origin, and, in the time of our Saxon ancestors, it flourished under the great northern family of Tyson. It belonged to Gilbert Tyson, a great baron, whose son and heir,

William Tyson, was slain fighting for King Harold at the memorable battle of Hastings. Of his daughter and heiress, Alda, William the conqueror assumed the right of disposal, and gave her in marriage to one of his Norman chieftains, named Ivo de Vescy, together with the extensive possessions of her late father, in Yorkshire, as well as at Alnwick.

From the Norman Conquest until the reign of Edward II. this Castle was possessed by the baronial family of De Vesci or Vescy, whose immense possessions made them one of the most powerful in the kingdom.

Ivo de Vescy had issue by his marriage with Alda Tyson, one child, Beatrix, who, at the instance of Henry I., became the wife of Eustace Fitz-John. William, son and heir of Eustace Fitz-John, changed his father's name, and assumed to himself and posterity the surname and arms of De Vescy, in right of his mother Beatrix. He married Burga, the daughter of Robert Stuteville, Lord of Knaresborough, and had issue Eustace Lord Vescy, who married Margery, the daughter of William king of Scotland. Eustace was slain at Barnard Castle. William, his eldest son and heir, had issue by his wife Agnes, daughter of William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, John Lord Vescy and William. John, leaving no issue, was succeeded by his brother William, who married Isabella the daughter of Robert Perington, and widow of Robert Lord Wells. William Lord Vescy, dying without legitimate issue, did, by the king's license, enfeof Anthony Bec, Bishop of Durham, and titular patriarch of Jerusalem, in the Castle and Barony of Alnwick, to him and his

heirs for ever. At the same time William gave to a natural son of his, named also William de Vescy, large possessions in Yorkshire, which he settled absolutely on him and his heirs; appointing him, as he was then a minor, two guardians, whose names were Thomas Plaiz and Geoffrey Gypsiner Clerk.

This deed of enfeoffment, still extant, in which the conveyance to the bishop is absolute and unconditional, confutes a report too hastily taken up by some historians, that this Castle and Barony were only given to the bishop in trust for William, the bastard above-mentioned, and that he was guilty of a violation of this trust in disposing of them otherwise.

The Castle and Barony of Alnwick continued twelve years in the possession of Anthony Bec, bishop of Durham, and were then by him granted and sold to Henry Lord Percy, one of the greatest barons in the north, who had distinguished himself in the wars with Scotland, and whose family had enjoyed large possessions in Yorkshire from the time of the conquest. The grant was afterwards confirmed by the king at Sheen, on January 23rd, 1310, (3 Edward II.) to Henry de Percy and his heirs; who, to remove every pretence of complaint, obtained a release of all right and title to the inheritance from Sir Gilbert de Aton, knight, the heir at law of the Lord William de Vescy above mentioned.

From this period Alnwick Castle became the great baronial seat, in the north, of the Lords de Percy, and of their successors the Earls of Northumberland; from whom it has been transmitted in lineal succession to

their illustrious representative, His Grace Hugh the present Duke and Earl of Northumberland.

This noble family is descended from Mainfred, a Danish chieftain, who made irruptions into France in the ninth century, and his posterity settling in Normandy, took their name from the domain of Percy, in that Province, which was granted by the famous Rollo to Geoffrey, the son of Mainfred.

From this Geoffrey were immediately descended William and Serlo, who came to England with the Norman conqueror. William enjoyed the especial favour of the king, who bestowed on him immense territories and dignities. Serlo took orders, and became abbot of Whitby Abbey in Yorkshire, founded by his brother. William de Percy, surnamed *Le Gernon* or Algernon, married Emma de Port, lady of the honour of Semar, whose father, a great Saxon Lord, had been slain fighting for Harold. By her he had issue three sons, of whom Allan the eldest succeeded him. He married Emma, daughter of Gilbert de Gaunt, Lord of Hummundbre, and grand-daughter of Gilbert, Earl of Lincoln, by whom he had five sons, and was succeeded by William the eldest, who married Alice, the daughter of Robert Lord Ross, and had issue four sons. Allan, the eldest, dying without issue, his titles devolved upon William, his brother, one of the northern barons who distinguished themselves at the battle of Northallerton against the Scots. He made a journey to Jerusalem, and died at Mount-Joy in the Holy Land. He married Adelidis de Tunebrigge, and had issue four sons, who all died

without issue, and two daughters, of whom Agnes was his successor. She married Josceline de Louvaine (a lineal descendant from the Emperor Charlemagne) son of Godfrey, Duke of Brabant, and brother to Adelidis, wife of King Henry I. of England. On his marriage with Agnes, he took the name of Percy, but retained the arms of Brabant.

Richard, their eldest son and successor, died without issue, and was succeeded by Henry his brother, who married Isabel, daughter of Adam de Brus, of Skelton, and was succeeded by his eldest son William, who married Elan, daughter of William Lord Bardolph, and had issue seven sons. He was succeeded by Henry the eldest, who married Eleanor, daughter of John, Earl of Warren and Surrey. He had three sons, and on the death of the eldest, the honours and estates devolved upon his youngest son Henry.

Previous to the reign of Edward I. the Percies were Barons by tenure, but from this period they sat in Parliament under a writ of summons.

I.—1 Edward I., A. D. 1272.

This Henry de Percy became of age 22 Edward I., and he was created Baron Percy by writ of summons, 27 Edward I., 1299. He was an important personage in this reign, especially in the Scottish Wars. He purchased the Castle and Barony of Alnwick in 1309, and died in 1315. By Eleanor his wife, daughter of John Fitzallan he had issue two sons, Henry and William.

II.—8 Edward II., A. D. 1315.

Henry, his son, was second Baron Percy, and was sixteen at his father's death : he was an active soldier,

and was at the siege of Berwick, by Edward III., at the battles of Hallidown Hill and Nevil's Cross. He was the first of the Percies who possessed the Castle of Warkworth, which he received by grant from the crown, in lieu of an annual salary of 500 marks paid to him for certain stipulated services. His life was active and glorious, and, after signalizing himself in many battles, he died February 26th, 1352, full of years and honours, and was buried in the Abbey of Alnwick. By Idonea his wife, daughter of Robert Lord Clifford, he left four sons. He was succeeded by his son Henry.

III.—26 Edward III., A. D. 1352.

Henry, the eldest son, was thirty years of age when his father died: he was the third Baron Percy. He was at the battle of Crescy, and leader of one of the wings at the battle of Nevil's Cross, where his father had the chief command. He married the Lady Mary Plantagenet, daughter of Henry Earl of Lancaster, and great grand-daughter of King Henry III. By this marriage there were two sons, Henry, his successor, and Thomas, Earl of Worcester. He died in the 42 of Edward III.

IV.—42 Edward III., A. D. 1368.

Henry, the fourth Baron Percy, and first Earl of Northumberland, K. G., was a great supporter of Wickliffe the reformer, by which his life was in imminent danger. He was appointed Marshal of England; created Earl of Northumberland, July 16th, 1377, by King Richard II., and was distinguished with the office of High Constable of England and other high honours,

by Henry IV. But having suffered unmerited indignity from King Henry IV. which the blood of the Percies could not brook from one raised chiefly by them to the throne, he joined in an insurrection against the king, and was slain at the battle of Bramham Moor, in the year 1408. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Ralph Lord Nevil, and sister of Ralph, first Earl of Westmoreland. By her he had issue Henry and other children. He married, secondly, Maud, sister and heir of Anthony Lord Lucy, by whom he had no issue.

His eldest son, Sir Henry Percy, Knight, from his valour and magnanimous courage called **HOTSPUR**, was one of the most distinguished personages of this period. He was a Knight of the Garter, and filled most important offices in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. He was Warden of the West Marches, Sheriff of Northumberland, Governor of Berwick and Roxburgh Castles; Justice of Chester, North Wales, and Flintshire; Grantee for life of the Castle and Lordship of Bamburgh; Constable of Chester, Flint, Conway, and Caernarvon Castles; and Sheriff of Flintshire for life; Grantee for life of the whole County and Dominion of Anglesey, and the Castle of Beaumaris. After a life distinguished by valorous achievements and martial glory, he was slain at the battle of Shrewsbury, on the 22nd of July, 1403. He married Eleanor, eldest daughter of Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March, by Philippa his wife, only daughter and heir of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, second son of Edward III., by whom he had issue one son and a daughter.

Hotspur and his brother were taken prisoners at the battle of Otterburn in the year 1388, in which fight he slew Earl Douglas. He was afterwards exchanged for Sir Hugh Montgomery, a prisoner taken by the English.

This fray began at Otterburne,
Between the night and day;
There the Douglas lost his life,
And the Percy was led away.
Battle of Otterburn. Percy's Reliques.

V.—9 Henry IV., A. D. 1408.

Henry, the son and heir of Hotspur, the fifth Baron Percy and second Earl, after the death of his father, was carried into Scotland in the time of King Henry IV.; but in the reign of King Henry V., by the labour of Joan Countess of Westmoreland, whose daughter Eleanor he had married in coming into England, he recovered the King's grace and the county of Northumberland. The early history of this Earl and his Countess is beautifully told in the ballad of the "Hermit of Warkworth."

She, suppliant at her nephew's throne,
The royal grace implor'd :
To all the honours of his race,
The Percy was restor'd.
The youthful Earl still more and more
Admir'd his beauteous dame ;
Nine noble sons to him she bore,
All worthy of their name.

The Castle of Alnwick was his favourite residence, and he caused the town to be fortified by a stone wall flanked by four gates and square towers. In the time of peace and leisure, he patronized learning and

the liberal arts. In the dreadful carnage at St. Albans, A. D. 1455, this nobleman fell fighting in support of the king. Of the nine sons above referred to, he was succeeded by his eldest son Henry.

VI.—33 Henry VI., A. D. 1455.

Henry, the sixth Baron Percy and third Earl, was thirty years of age at his father's death: he married Eleanor, daughter and sole heiress of Richard Lord Poinings, Fitz-Payne, and Bryan; and by the title of Poinings he was summoned to parliament in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of Henry VI. In the contention between the houses of York and Lancaster, the Earl joined the party of King Henry. He commanded the van-guard of the army at the famous battle of Ferrybridge; and the snow blowing in the face of his troops, he led them on to charge sword in hand, when a sanguinary conflict continued for ten hours, and the valiant Earl fell in the general carnage. On the succession of Edward IV. the late Earl was attainted, and the earldom of Northumberland was granted to John Nevill, Lord Montacute, and brother to the Earl of Warwick.

VII.—1 Edward IV., A. D. 1461.

Henry Percy, the son and heir, seventh Baron Percy and fourth Earl of Northumberland, being in minority when his father was slain, he was committed to the tower till the year 1469, when on taking the oaths of allegiance to Edward IV. his titles and possessions were restored to him. In the fourth year of Henry VII. the Earl was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of York, and being active in enforcing the tax levied for carrying on the war in Brittany, he enraged

the populace, who assaulted the Earl, and put him to death at Cockledge, near Thirsk, in the year 1489. He married Maud, daughter of William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke of that name.

VIII.—5 Henry VII., A. D. 1489.

He was succeeded by his son Henry, the eighth Baron Percy and fifth Earl of Northumberland, K. G., who, on the marriage of Margaret to the Scottish monarch, is said to have exceeded in splendour all the nobility present, being more like a prince than a subject. He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Robert Spencer and Eleanor his wife, who was daughter and coheir of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. This Earl caused the celebrated Household Book to be prepared, the best record now existing of the economy of a great Baron's Household, in the days of Henry VII. and VIII. This Earl died in the eighteenth year of Henry VIII., and was buried at Beverley. He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry.

IX.—18 Henry VIII., A. D. 1526.

Henry, the ninth Baron Percy and sixth Earl, K. G., married Mary, daughter of George, Earl of Shrewsbury. On November 4th, 1530, he arrested Cardinal Wolsey of high treason. He died without issue, in the twenty-ninth year of Henry VIII. He was passionately attached to the beautiful and unfortunate Anne Boleyn.

X.—29 Henry VIII., A. D. 1538.

Sir Thomas Percy (the last Earl's brother) having been attainted for rebellion, the earldom became vacant on the death of the Earl. However, Queen Mary, in the fourth year of her reign, restored Thomas Percy,

nephew of the sixth Earl, to the honours of his ancestors ; the patent setting forth that his restoration was made "in consideration of his noble descent, constancy, virtues, valour in deeds of arms, and other shining qualifications." He was the tenth Baron Percy and seventh Earl. Some causes of discontent having arisen, he joined the northern conspiracy, and appeared in open rebellion in the thirteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He and his Countess, Ann, daughter of the Earl of Worcester, were convicted of high treason, and he was beheaded at York on the 22nd of August, 1572. He left no male issue.

XI.—14 Elizabeth, A. D. 1572.

Sir Henry Percy, his brother, became the eleventh Baron Percy and eighth Earl, by virtue of the entail in Queen Mary's patent. In the eighteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, he was summoned to parliament by the distinction of Earl of Northumberland and Baron Percy. Being suspected of plotting to set the Queen of Scots at liberty, he was committed to the tower, in 1585, where he was found dead in his bed, having three pistol shots under his left breast. He married Catherine, eldest daughter and coheir of John Nevill, Lord Latimer, and had issue eight sons and three daughters.

XII.—37 Elizabeth, A. D. 1585.

He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry, the twelfth Baron Percy and ninth Earl. He was just twenty-one when his father died. He was one of those lords who hired vessels to accompany the Lord High Admiral against the Spanish Armada. But being suspected as an accomplice in the Gunpowder

Plot, he was committed to the tower. In 1614 he paid a fine of thirty thousand pounds for misprison of treason only; and in 1621 his liberty was restored, after a confinement of fifteen years. He died on the 5th of November, 1632, and was buried at Petworth. It is a curious coincidence that he who had suffered so much on account of the Gunpowder Plot, should have departed this life on its anniversary. He married Dorothy, daughter of Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex, and had issue four sons and two daughters.

XIII.—8 Charles I., A. D. 1632.

His two eldest sons dying in infancy, he was succeeded by his third son Algernon, K. G., the thirteenth Baron Percy and tenth Earl, who was appointed Lord High Admiral of England, and elevated to the highest dignities. He partook of those unhappy reverses of fortune which followed his sovereign Charles I. Being disgusted with state affairs, he retired from public business till the restoration of Charles II., in which he took an active part. By Elizabeth, daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk, he had issue Josceline, his only son and successor. He died in October, 1668.

XIV.—20 Charles II., A. D. 1668.

Josceline, the fourteenth Baron Percy and eleventh Earl of Northumberland, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Southampton, and Lord High Treasurer of England. He was made Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Sussex, and Lord Lieutenant of the county of Northumberland. He died at Turin, on 21st May, 1670, and, being brought to England, was interred at Petworth. His only son, Henry, died in infancy.

XV.—22 Charles II., A. D. 1670.

Lady Elizabeth Percy was the eldest and only surviving daughter of the last Earl, and Baroness Percy in her own right, the fifteenth in succession. She was married while a minor: first, in 1679, to the Earl of Ogle, son and heir to the Duke of Newcastle; secondly, claimed in marriage by Thomas Thynne, Esq., who was murdered; and thirdly, married to Charles, Duke of Somerset. She was the greatest heiress of the age. By the Duke she left issue three sons and four daughters. Only one son, the Earl of Hertford, lived to maturity; and of the four daughters only one left issue, from whom were descended the Earls of Egremont. This Baroness died on the 23rd of November, 1722.

XVI.—9 George I., A. D. 1722.

Algernon, her only surviving son, the Earl of Hertford, became sixteenth Baron Percy, and took his seat in the house of Peers in the place of that ancient Barony in 1722: he was also heir of the other five Baronies. He was created Earl of Northumberland. He married Frances Thynne, daughter and coheir of Henry only son of Thomas first Viscount Weymouth. He succeeded as Duke of Somerset on the death of his father, on the 2nd of December, 1748. He was a military officer, and Colonel of the Royal Horse Guards. His Grace died on the 7th February, 1750, without issue male, but leaving an only child, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Hugh Smithson, Bart. His Grace had an only son, George Lord Viscount Beauchamp, who died at Bologna, on the 22nd of July, 1744, aged 19.

XVII.—23 George II., A. D. 1750.

Lady Elizabeth was married on the 16th July, 1740, to Sir Hugh. On the death of her father, she succeeded to the title of Baroness Percy (the seventeenth in succession), and to the other five Baronies of Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Payne, Bryan, and Latimer. She was the first Duchess of Northumberland; her husband having been, by George II., created Baron Warkworth and Earl of Northumberland, and by George III., Duke of Northumberland. His Grace was also created, in 1784, Lord Louvaine, Baron of Alnwick, with remainder to Algernon, his second son, and the heirs male of his body. His Grace held the high and princely office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and died in 1786. Her Grace died on the 5th of December, 1776. By his illustrious consort, His Grace had two sons, Hugh, the second Duke of Northumberland, and Algernon, Earl of Beverley; also one daughter, Anne Frances, who died unmarried.

XVIII.—26 George III., A. D. 1786.

Upon the death of his mother, Hugh, the eldest son, became eighteenth Baron Percy, and succeeded to the other Baronies; and, at his father's death, second Duke of Northumberland. He married in July, 1764, the Lady Ann Stewart, third daughter of John, Earl of Bute, which marriage was dissolved by act of parliament in May, 1779. His Grace was afterwards united to Frances Julia, third daughter of Peter Burrell, Esq. of Beckenham, in Kent, by whom he had issue six daughters, of which number one only survives, the Lady Agnes; and two sons, Hugh Earl Percy, born April 20th, 1785; and Algernon, born December

15th, 1792, and created Baron Prudhoe of Prudhoe Castle in Northumberland, on August 14th, 1816.

XIX.—57 George III., A. D. 1817.

Hugh, the third and present Duke, the nineteenth Baron Percy and fourteenth Earl of Northumberland, was member of Parliament for the city of Westminster, and for the county of Northumberland, from 1807 until he was called to the House of Lords in his father's life-time: he was summoned there as Baron Percy, on the 12th of March, 1812, and was placed by the House in the precedence of that ancient Barony, created in 1299. He succeeded his late father on July 10th, 1817. He married on the 29th of April, 1817, the Lady Charlotte-Florentia Clive, youngest daughter of Edward, Earl of Powis. His Grace's arms, emblazoned with those of the

Duchess's are in the margin. His titles are—"The Most Noble Hugh Duke and Earl of Northumberland, Earl and Baron Percy, Baron Lucy, Poynings, Fitz-Payne, Bryan,



Latimer, and Warkworth; and Baronet; Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Northumberland, and of the town and county of the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, Vice-Admiral of the same and of the maritime parts thereof, one of the Lords of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, Her Majesty's Trustee for the British Museum, Chancellor

of the University of Cambridge, Constable of Launceston Castle, High Steward of Launceston, and Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter."

Lord Prudhoe married, on the 28th of August, 1842, the Lady Eleanor Grosvenor, daughter of Richard Earl Grosvenor, now Marquis of Westminster.

For the curious in heraldry, subjoined is the description of the Arms of this ancient and noble Family.

ARMS.—Quarterly, first and fourth grand quarters, counter-quartered. First and fourth, *Or, a lion rampant az.* (being the ancient arms of the Duke of BRABANT AND LOVAINE). Second and third, *Gu. three lucas or pikes haurient ar.* for LUCY. Second and third grand quarters, *Az. five fusils conjoined in fess or,* for PERCY.

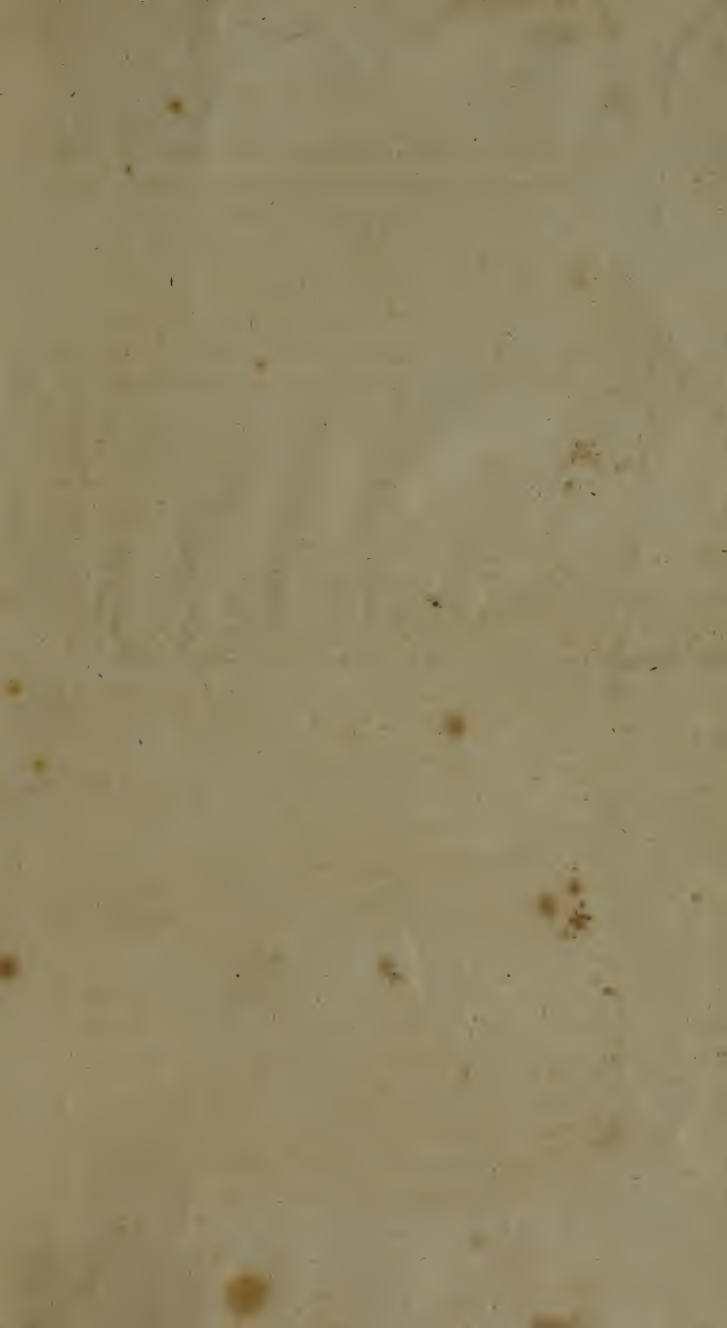
CREST.—*On a chapeau gu. turned up with erm. a lion statant az. the tail extended.*

BADGE.—*A crescent ar. within the horns per pale sa. and gu. charged with a double manacle fessways or.*

SUPPORTERS.—Dexter, *a lion rampant az.* Sinister, *a lion ramp. guard. or, ducally crowned of the last, gorged with a collar gobony ar. and az.*

MOTTO.—*ESPERANCE EN DIEU.*





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